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6 DEC 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT: Development of Language Training and Area
Study Project

1. For some time this Division has recognized the vital need within the Agency for qualified -- or potential -- intelligence officers who, in addition to their professional finesse, possess certain language capabilities together with a knowledge of the people, their customs, taboos and mores of the country to which they are assigned or against which they will operate. This is especially true for [] where, by virtue of our liaison relationship, the problem is critical to the profit CIA expects to realize. Therefore, we request your support first in developing and then maintaining a project designed exclusively to provide qualified linguists and area specialists for the [] Mission. In effect, this memorandum confirms and formalizes the discussions held between [] during the past thirty days.

2. Because of the peculiarity attendant to CIA's position in liaison with the [] Branch is most anxious to develop and maintain a sufficient number of [] speaking officers to better our present capabilities and assure their continuity, i.e., to counter the toll of rotation. With this as our stated objective, we propose to implement the project along the following lines:

a. To provide a tour of duty (probably a minimum of one year) in [] for the trainees selected. The trainees will utilize that form of student cover considered best to meet the natural interests of security and yet provide the necessary opportunity to gain maximum language training and area knowledge. They will not be assigned operational duties during this period of training; however, they will be in contact with a designated member of the [] to receive whatever supervision, guidance or administrative support may be needed.

b. Upon completion of the above tour and return to Headquarters those trainees who have sufficient interest and capability to assume straight operational duties with the [] will be assigned accordingly.

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c. This Division understands that the Office of Training prefers that the persons selected remain on the OTR T/O until such training is completed. In view of this preference, the SE Division would then assign to its T/O only those officers accepted at the conclusion of this special training.

3. The initial tasks appear to be:

a. To interview and select those individuals who combine the following qualifications to the highest degree:

(1) Male; preferably single; Staff Agent or Staff Employee status; between 21 and 35 years of age; college graduate (preferred) and language aptitude definitely established.

(2) Besides the above, other factors such as area interest, career interest and individual personalities must be considered through interviews or possibly by tests.

b. To establish a suitable cover for each individual selected.

c. To arrange briefing, dispatch and administrative procedures in connection with the overseas tour.

4. As the matter now stands, if the Director of Training agrees with the plan as generally outlined above, and previously discussed by members of both components, we are prepared to submit a Project Outline through the normal coordination channels without delay. Your early response will be appreciated.

5. Please refer any questions regarding the above project to

[Redacted]

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Chief, SE

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